

STEPHEN ELLIOTT.

FEBRUARY 29, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCUMBER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8272.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8272) granting an increase of pension to Stephen Elliott, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

The soldier, now 75 years of age, served as a private in Company G, Second Battalion, Eighteenth U. S. Infantry, from June 13, 1862, to June 13, 1865, when honorably discharged, and, according to the war records, received a wound of the right shoulder at Chickamauga, Ga., September 20, 1863.

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, due to said wound and sciatica.

He was formally pensioned under the general law on account of the wound at \$6 per month from discharge and at \$8 per month from December 2, 1885.

Increase of pension under the general law was denied June 29, 1903, upon the ground that the disability from the wound did not entitle him to a higher rating.

Medical testimony filed in the Pension Bureau in April, 1903, shows that the soldier was then suffering from Bright's disease and fatty degeneration of the heart, with general senile debility.

When last examined by the board of surgeons, at Milwaukee, Wis., on April 29, 1903, he was rated \$12 for the wound, \$8 for heart disease, \$10 for kidney disease, \$16 for general debility, and \$4 for impaired hearing, and the surgeons stated as follows:

"This man is old and decrepit. His crippled shoulder incapacitates him to use his right arm to any great extent; fully one-half of power and usefulness gone.

"He is suffering with Bright's disease and secondary involvement of lungs. His heart is weak. He needs attendance during one-half the time of the day, especially during catheterization and dressing. His cough is incessant; his debility extreme."

The affidavit of the city clerk of Waukesha, Wis., and that of two other neighbors of the beneficiary, filed with your committee, set forth that the beneficiary is entirely without any property, either real or personal, and that he has no means of support except the pension which he is now receiving.

Whatever may be the cause of the soldier's Bright's disease and extreme debility, there is no doubt as to his present condition, which is one of practically helplessness and inability to follow any occupation. In view of this, his faithful services for three years, and great destitution, an increase of his pension to \$24 per month is eminently proper.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

